

(66)

A few notes of the
voyage of the whaling
bark H. Oratio of New
Bedford from July
4th to Sept. 9th

Arthur S. Heller

1
On board the Bark
Hovativ
Port Clarence July 4, '91
The morning passed
with fine weather.
At five o'clock all the
colors were set at Rig
all hands were called.
Breakfast at seven.
after that one boat and
crew went to the tender
to get our potatoes, the
rest broke out the ^{new} fore
topgallant sail and
fore topmast & staysails
and bent them about
ten o'clock the larboard
fire broke out on the bank
James Allen the boats
from all the ships ~~among~~
then a gun larboard belt
lowered and went to
help put it out. Two

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Steamers and half a dozen force pumps were pouring streams of water into her and continued to do so until she was nearly sunk and the fire put out, then they commenced to pump her out which they finished doing at five o'clock Sunday morning. I was aboard working for about eleven hours. Do not imagine the looks of the deck ropes cut. holes in the deck dirt smoke and water all over them.

The cabin broken into and every thing stolen, or broken. All the rum was dumped overboard at the commencement

so there was no drunkenness.

Sunday July 25th
 The morning was rather
 hazy. One watch out
 aboard the B. A. help-
 ing straighten her out
 and the other turned
 in. About noon the
 U.S. Cutter Osage came
 in and anchored. She
 is up here to protect the
 whalers and see that
 no rum is sold to the
 natives. Monday the 26th
 We turned out at six
 had to break ast at seven
 and as soon as we had
 finished commenced get-
 ting under way we got
 out of the harbor about
 noon and struck a
 calm and anchored.

between Kings Island
and Port of Lawrence. But
express vessels are now leaving
the harbor eighteen sailing
to day among them the
steamer beam.

Tuesday the 7th
We are still laying at
anchor at this time 3 P.M.
but will start as soon
as there is a breeze. We
bore anchor about five
P.M. and started with
a good breeze and five
other vessels with us.

Wednesday
A fine breeze all day
and by night we had
left all the vessels out
of sight astern of us.

Thursday, 9th
The breeze is still fresh
and we are moving
very fast.

We left St Lawrence Is.
out of sight this
morning between
three and four o'clock
and we sight & expect
will be St Matthew
Is. The days are begin-
ning to shorten and we
will soon begin to have
night. Friday 10th

Foggy with a strong
breeze all day. We reat-
ched the right whale
grounds to day and
gammied the steam
whaler Beluga and
got the news of the
right whale fleet. In the
morning we sighted a
lot of finbacks.

Saturday 10th
Foggy with a strong
breeze. nothing going on.

Sunday, 12th

Foggy with a strong breeze, lighted up about noon and the sun came out for a little while but soon shut in again.

Towards night lighted a bark off our lee beam but did not go near enough to tell what she was.

Monday, 13th

Blowing a gale with fog and rain. began moderating about noon. We were under lower topsails but have now set the fore sail and began to go ahead. The old men are very anxious to sight a whale and so on but do not much like the idea of lowering in this kind of weather.

Tuesday, 1st ~~of~~ ^{the}

Last night it breezed and blew almost a hurricane accompanied with a cold rain and fog.

We shortened sail down to maintopsail and staysail and hove to. I think it was about the most disagreeable night we have had since leaving New B.

This morning it moderated and by night it was a dead calm with a bad sea rolling us about in all shapes.

n We put a line over and tried to catch a codfish but did not get a bite.

We see fur seals nearly every day but it is against the law to catch them.

Wednesday 15th

A light breeze and
the fog horns going.
The starboard watch
are breaking out water
cugan, molasses, vineg-
ar, beef and pork while
the port watch, the one
that I am in is below
until twelve o'clock.

Thursday, 16th

Foggy, raining and a
light breeze. I sighted
the steamer *Freese*
Freemair trying start
two whalers making
seven for her. In the
afternoon sighted the
Blark. Sydney with
two and a half whales
gannet her and
found the best crowd
of fellows forward of
my ship yet.

Friday 18th 9⁵

Foggy rainy and a fair breeze. In the morning spoke the steamer Peluga with no whales there. Jammed the Sydney all day.

Saturday 19th

Foggy, rainy and a very strong breeze.

Jammed the N.B. Hawk & Cephrine with three hundred barrels sperm oil. In the

afternoon we sighted the brig Francis Paston with all sail set chasing whales.

Sunday 19th

Before breakfast we sighted a dead whale called by whalers

"A stinker" and indeed
it is just what they are.
After breakfast we got
him along side and
hove in the head in
a hurry as there were
four vessels bearing down
on us any of which might
have claimed it
if we did not have it
down before they got there.
It fell a flat calm so
that we were all night.
We got the head in
before dinner and were
all cleaned up before
supper. The mate cal-
culated that it made
us about one thousand
pounds of bone. We did
not bother with the blub-
ber. Monday 29th
In the morning we

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sighted three barks one
of which had her boats
down after whales and
just then the man sung
out from mast head "blow
"blow" a right whale on
the lee beam. We then
lowered three boats and
after two or three hours
behove the mates boat
that Sam in struck
after we had but a cou-
ple of bombs into him the
other boats came up and
put some into him
After we had killed
him the ship came
down and picked us
up and we commenced
heaving in got the
head on deck before night

08 Tuesday 30th
We finished heaving

in the blubber to day.
It is expected to make
one hundred and twenty
five bbls. of oil and twelve
hundred pounds of bone
& a very tired to night
having had forty hours
haul work and eight
hours sleep in the last
forty eight. We will
commence trying out
in the morning.

Wednesday 22nd
We had the try work
going full blast all
day & sighted two
sails, chasing whales
foggy as usual.

Thursday 23rd
Have got the work
well heaved up and are
running the gib out
pretty fast. In the

afternoon we sighted a
right whale about a
half mile off and low-
ered three boats but
before we struck him it
came in so thick that
we could not see the ship
so had to let the whale go
and find the ship.

Friday 25th

Before breakfast we sight-
ed a right whale about
a quarter of a mile ahead
of the ship and lowered
two boats. When my boat
got within a boat's leng-
th of him he turned
flukes and went down
and when he came
up again he was out
of sight in the fog.
We commenced stow-
ing down oil after break-
fast

and got one hundred and
then down before night.
We finished trying out
about nine or twelve in the
evening.

Saturday 25th

We finished stowing the
oil about noon. The
whale making us one
hundred and eighty seven
barrels. In the after-
noon we garmed the
bk. pole in the ship which
left Port B. at the same
time we did. She had
caught a cow and calf
making her twelve or
thirteen hundred of bone
and one hundred and
forty barrels of oil. Wind light
and foggy all day.

Sunday 26th

Thick fog and no wind
all the morning, clear for

about two or three hours
in the afternoon. at night
it was so thick you
could not see the length
of the ship. Nothing to
do all day but work
the ship. nearly all
took the opportunity to
wash their oily clothes.
the ship looked by mes-
sage as if a laundry had
been started on her.

Monday 27th
Very light wind and
thick fog all day. have
seen nothing whatever
to day. The mate is
feeling pretty good to day
as he has let me loaf
all day.

Tuesday 28th
Very light wind and
fog. In the forenoon

we sighted something
in the fog that we were
in hope was a steamer
but on running down to
it found it was nothing
but an empty barrel.

Wednesday 29th
Foggy and dead calm
In the morning we
heated a lot of water
and commenced wash-
ing the bone we got from
the steamer and finished
about seven in the
evening. The fog lifted
for a little while and
we sighted the Coeur d'Alene
with one forty barrel right
whale, two other barrels
and the steamer, H. M.
Lewis. We examined the
latter and found her
just from Oranoraska.

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where she had been
coaling. She has caught
nothing whatever yet
and is the only steamer
that is clean.

Thursday 30th
light wind foggy and
raining. One steamer
one bark and plenty
of firebarks in sight.

Friday 31st
Foggy and very light
wind. In the afternoon
commenced breezing on
and raining and before
the watch I was over
we had sail shortened
down to lower topsails
and storm staysails.

August

Saturday 1st
Rain and fog the wind
moderating and sail
on again.

7 In the evening we sighted a steamer and on her running down to us we found her to be the Belvedere with nine whales. The capt. and Taylor Morse came aboard. Morse called me aft and had quite a talk with me about home.

Sunday 2^d
We lay to with the Belvedere and in the morning set sail and started in company with her for St. Matthew I.C. In the evening we came together and our capt. went aboard the steamer.

Monday 3^d
We lay together.

all night and started ^{19.}
again in the morning
the breeze was light
and the steamer got
up steam and soon
left us out of sight

Tuesday 4th
It is getting better weather
every day as we get
north by half the
day being foggy. It is
growing cooler every
day now. In the
afternoon we sighted
and hauled the
schooner Jane Gray
Capt Kelly with two
whales.

Wednesday 5th
Lay to with the schooner
and in the morning
I went aboard and
stayed all day.

and came across a
boat steerer that had
been shipmates with
a number of Matta boys.

Thursday 6th

To day is my birth
day and I hope I
will not be aboard
one of this style ships
to celebrate my next
one. We parted company
with the schooner she
being off for Port Bl-
aney and we for St-
Matthews which we
sighted about four o-
clock.

Friday 7th

Were closet in to
the Island and sighted
Pelican Is. and then
stood off. About noon
a bank appeared to be

the Quindeer passed!
we carrying all possible
sail. In the afternoon
we righted the bark
rounding Pillow cutting
in two whales. She
sent a boat aboard
of us ~~afternoon~~ some
boatswains to mend
of her bates that had
been stove.

Saturday 8th
We set main royals
and squared yards for
the Arctic with a
light fair wind.

Sunday 9th Monday 10th
Tuesday 11th Wednesday 12th
Thursday 13th Friday 14th
We have been all alike
hardly touching a sheet
or brace.

Saturday 15th

This morning in a thick fog we could have run ashore if it had not been for the natives hallooing on the beach of King George Is. at the mouth of Pechering Strait. A number of them came off in their kayak little canoe with a hole just large enough for one to sit in. The third mate brought a little puppy and it has begun to be a pet for all hands fore and aft.

Sunday 10th
We made Cape Prince of Wales in the afternoon and sent a boat ashore of which I made one of the crew and shipped four natives. I had a chance to see the huts which have been wanting

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to do ever since we have
been amongst the natives.
The winter houses are
nearly all underground
some of them going
down two stories instead
of up as with us. There
are two school teachers
hired by the govt. who
stayed there all winter.
They have quite a nice
house. After getting the
natives aboard we set
all sail and in a couple
of hours had passed Little
Land Big Diomedes &c.
and were in the Arctic

Monday 17th

This morning the cabin
had the slop chest broke
out and gave the Eskimos
a change of clothes they
immediately went below

and put on every stitch
and then came on deck
feeling as big as anyone
possibly could. We have
got a very strong head
wind and are making
very little headway.

Tuesday 18th
The wind still continues
ahead and is blowing
very strong.

Wednesday 19th
No shift of wind yet nor
does it lighten any.
If it continues this way
we will not get to the
ice in a month.

Thursday 20th
This morning when I went
to mast head at three o'clock
I raised Point Hope fifty
miles away we soon went
out of sight of it and

raised it again in the afternoon and it has been in sight ever since steadily coming nearer and nearer.

Friday 21st

The wind still continues about the same and we gain very little on the land. Saturday 22nd

We are just about holding our own today.

Sunday 23rd

The wind light and foggy early in the morning and then continued breezing until it was blowing a gale dead aft. About eleven we sighted Cape Liebo and kept on for Point Barrow.

Monday 24th

For a change we have

had a few snow squalls
Sighted three barbs and
two brigs manned the
bank Ringler and brigs
Francis Barstow and
Alexander learnt from
them that the ice was
so thick that no vessels
could get to Point Barrow
this year and that
thirty whales had been
caught there from the
shore all of which bone
will have to stay there.
and also that the fleet
were all anchored at
Belcher and that out
of the fleet that left Port
Blarence right whaling
we had done the best.

Tuesday 25th
~~The~~ went into the ice
a little we were cruel some

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out again. Found it
the heaviest we had
seen yet. The rigging
froze up for the first time
this fall.

Wednesday 26th
To day is beautiful & so
warm that you can
sit around the decks
and be very comfortable
to morrow it will probab-
ly be so cold that you
will be freezing walking
about. This afternoon we
sighted seven barres and
one schooner and the
old man will have a
great time gunnimg
when we get to them.
One of the officers told
me that the old man
and he would take me with
him next year to steer
a boat.

Thursday 27th

A fine day and very light breeze ran along the edge of the ice and jammed the bark Triton and Tamerlane.

Friday 28th

Eleven sails in sight jammed the bark Andrew Hoicles thus all day.

Saturday 29th

This morning it blew a gale and when it let up we found ourselves within seven miles of Blossoms Shoals with the wind and tide setting us onto it. We immediately set sail and commenced working off.

Sunday 30th

We all had a fine drive

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with a light breeze work-
ing away from the shoals
sometimes one would be
ahead and then another
none of us making much
headway. Saw quite a
number of walrus.

Mon & Monday 31st

This morning we struck
a leading wind up
along the ice. We had
six sail ahead of us and
immediately began
gaining on them and
by twelve o'clock at night
had passed them all.

September

Tuesday 1st

Today it is blowing a
gale and so cold that
B suffer greatly from it.
As fast as a drop of water
comes aboard it freezes

ice. The bow is completely encased in a white coat.

Wednesday 3^d
The gale is blown out. We got into the ice and the old man was so scared that he did not eat anything in all day but I drank a good deal. We ran out at about two P.M. and got into clear water again. He saw a Polar bear on the ice but did not bother him.

Thursday 3^d
It is a fine day with a light breeze. We have though a lot of scattering ice. It commenced blowing a gale and we short-ended down to lower man.

to the air. during the night
it blew the hardest it
has ever blowing home.

Friday 4th

The gale still continues
with the addition of
snow and rain.

Saturday 5th

It has begun to moderate
and we commenced
to put on sail. Stood in
and made the ice and
then worked along the
wedge.

Sunday 6th

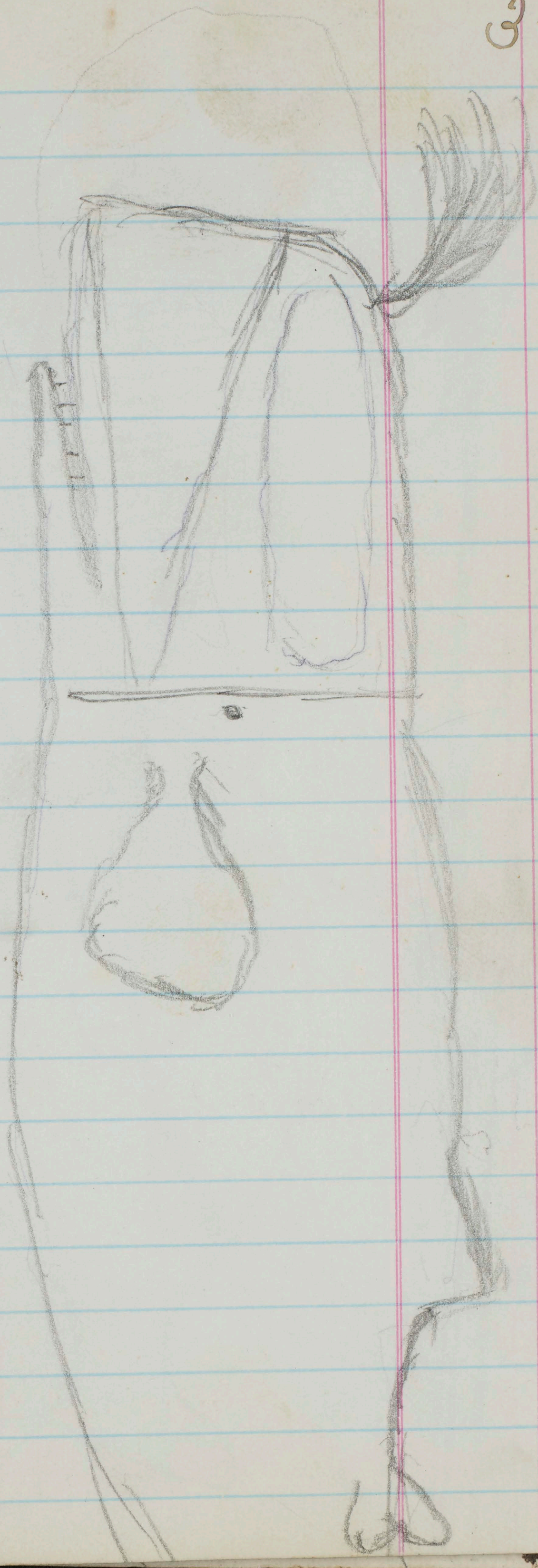
Very light breeze and
snow squalls. Sighted
five sails astern of us.
Lay all night in a calm.

Monday 7th

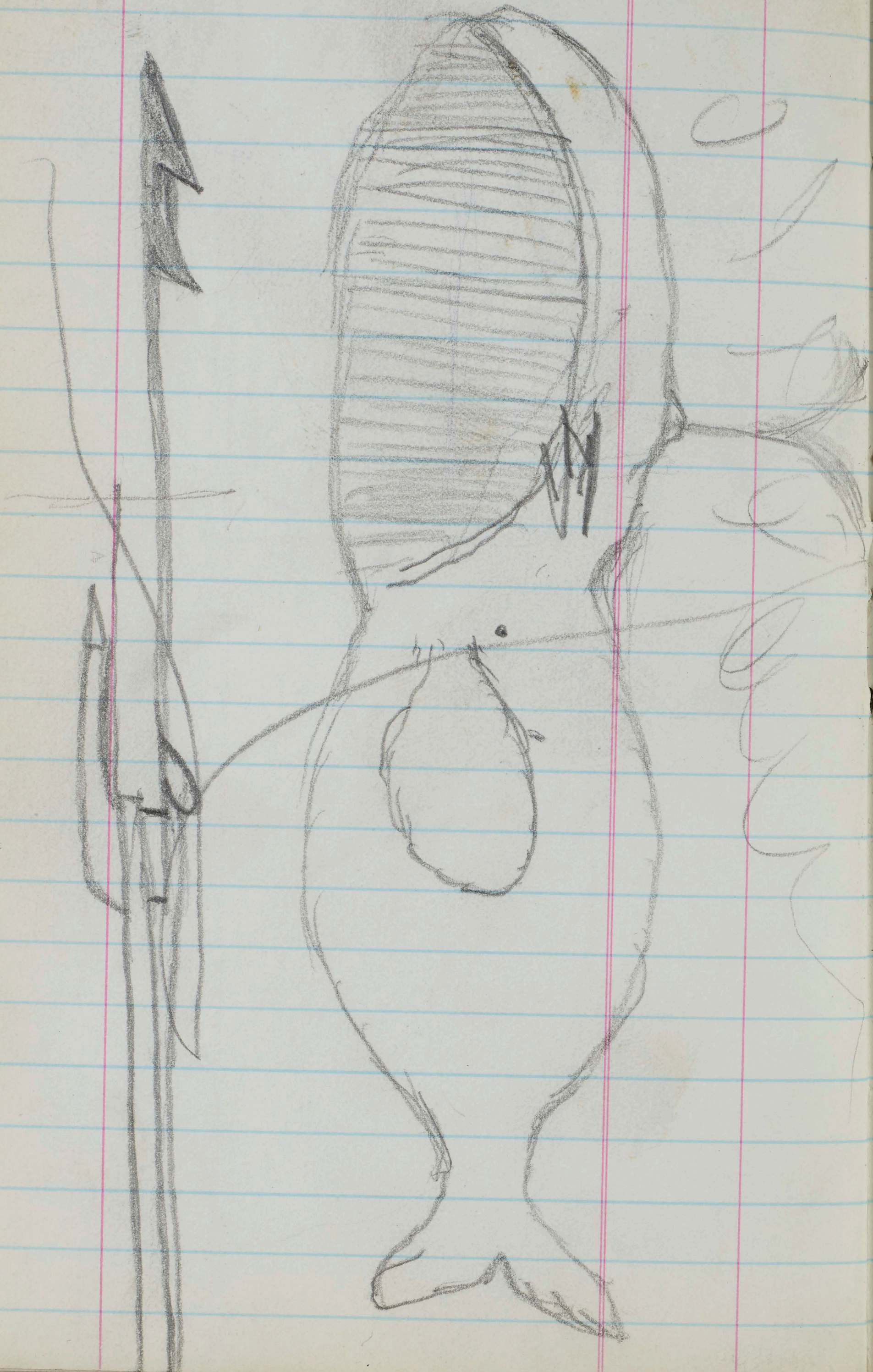
A fine day with light
breeze. Sighted the
barrel of gun. Bay and

Abram Parker all
three skippers got nearly
beastly drunk. We had
ten men in the forecabin
besides ours and had a
fine time ringing and
skipping yams. The
Portuguese on our side
called by us "Liberty Hall"
and the white natives
other.

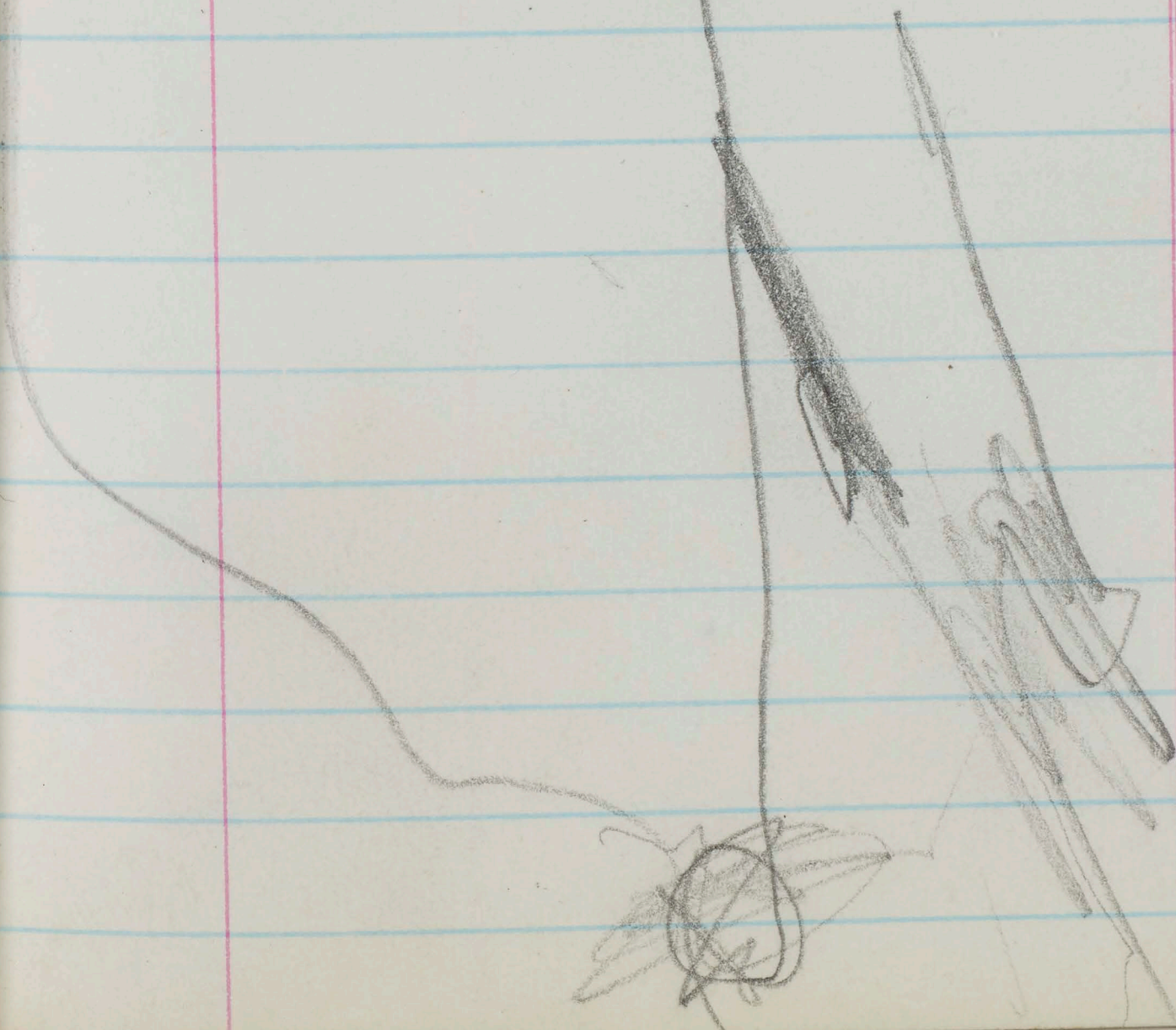
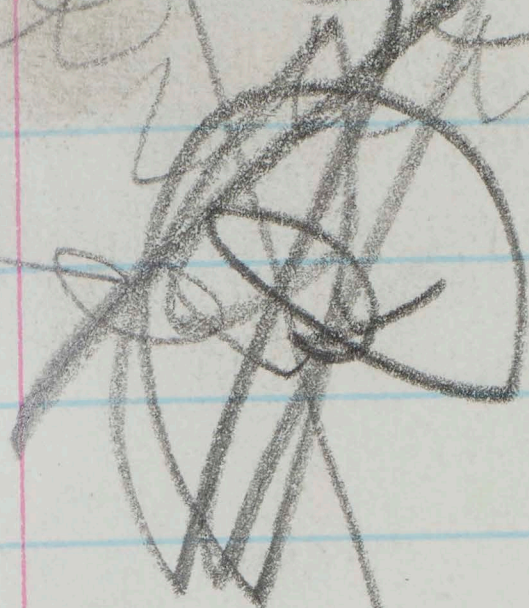
Tuesday 8th
Another fine day and
light breeze. in the after-
noon I engaged the
Boulding Willow and
Abram Parker. Learned
that two bowheads and a
calf had been seen.
Wednesday 9th

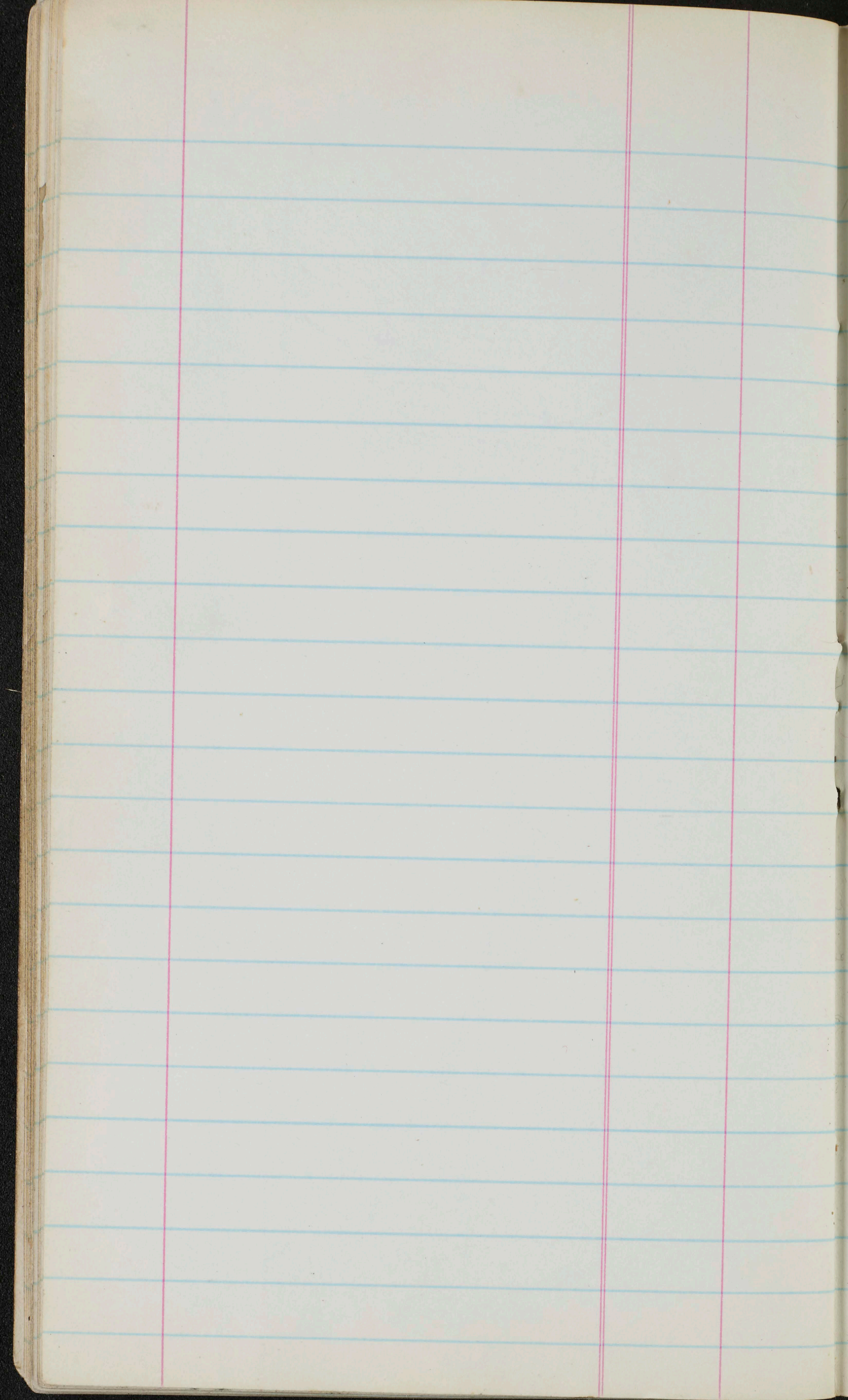


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~~the~~
~~summer~~
~~days~~
~~in~~





E.L.

Miss Bond

8 Holyoke Place
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Fred B. Jewing
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Worcester
Mass.

William Mahle
103 Main St.
Worcester
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Amster Mason
218 Baltic St
Leith
Scotland

William Murphy
108 Silver St.

Boston, Mass.

Address of some of my
companions during the
voyage

